[English]

Water Sharing with Bangladesh

1982. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether talks with Bangladesh for sharing water and on other matters have been found successful; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Thirty Second meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission held at Dhaka during 19-20th July, 1997, both sides hold discussions on the issues of mutual interest in the field of Water Resources common to both the countries. They agreed upon the immediate revival of Standing Committee and Local Level Committees to resolve issues of tying of embankments along the common rivers, Discussions also took place on review of implementation of sharing arrangements under the 1996 Indo-Bangladesh Treaty, Sharing of Teesta waters and other common rivers, strengthening the existing cooperation in the Flood Forecasting and Warning arrangement and Ganga Barrage Project of Bangladesh.

Tungabhadra Irrigation Project

1983. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has suggested conjunctive use of surface and ground water resources in the Tungabhadra irrigation project to mitigate water scarcity in the tail-end ayacut;

(b) if so, whether a survey has been conducted by the Central Ground Water Board which revealed that if implemented judiciously 85% of the water starved area could be brought under ground water irrigation; and

(c) if so, the other points made in the report and to what extent the State Government has agreed to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey conducted by the Central Ground Water Board revealed that 85.8 percent area in Tungabhadra command of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka can be brought under ground water irrigation by implementing conjunctive use plans judiciously.

(c) The other points made in the report include :

(i) Formation of Farmers Cooperative Societies for raising of loans from financial institutions and farmers participation in implementation of the plans.

(ii) Deployment of experienced ground water specialists to select and pinpoint the sites of production wells within the potential zones and to follow the norms for spacing of wells meticulously.

(iii) Modernisation of channels by lining channels to minimise the conveyance losses.

(iv) Restricting the water allocation at the field head to the crop water requirements after duly considering the percolation losses.

Gas Prices for Power Plant

1984. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for fixation of gas prices for various power plants in the country;

(b) the details of price at which gas is supplied for Ramgarh Gas Power Plant in Jaisalmer Distt. of Rajasthan and it is same as fixed by the Government;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Rajasthan Government to review the price of the gas;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering any plan to notify the concessional rate for the gas price in consideration to the desert terrain and small fields of gas;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the gas being supplied to Ramgarh plant contains high concentration of Nitrogen, which does not contribute to heat energy/power generation; and

(g) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The price of natural gas is Rs. 1850 per thousand cubic meters excluding royalty, taxes and transportation charges. In the North-East, the price is Rs. 1000 per thousand cubic meters with the provision of discount of Rs. 400 per thousand cubic meters.

(b) to (e) Having considered the request of the Government of Rajasthan, the Government of India has allowed a discount of 15% in the price of gas supplied to the Ramgarh power plant for utilising gas from a developing field. The power plant is also entitled to a further reduction in price on account of the low calorific value of the gas.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Exploration efforts are being continued in order to find natural gas in Rajasthan with better composition.